

Rights Commission failed with allies and friends casting the swing votes either in opposition to the resolution offered by the European Union or abstaining. The United States does not currently have a seat on the Commission and thus was not voting.

A Human Rights Watch report of February 2002 entitled "Swept Under: Torture, Forced Disappearances, and Extrajudicial Killings During Sweep Operations in Chechnya" describes the "sweeps" conducted by the Russian military in the summer of 2001:

Troops rounded up several thousand Chechens, mostly without any form of due process, and took them to temporary military bases in or near the villages. According to eyewitnesses, soldiers extrajudicially executed at least eleven detainees, and at least two detainees "disappeared" in detention. . . . Twelve former detainees [gave] detailed testimony of torture and ill-treatment, including electric shocks, severe beatings, and being forced to remain in "stress position." Eyewitnesses also gave testimony about widespread extortion, looting, and destruction of civilian property.

Eventually, Russia's top military officer admitted that the troops had committed "widespread crimes." International revulsion against the conduct of these "sweeps" was so great that in March of this year, the Russian military introduced "Order No. 80," according to which "sweeps" are to be conducted "only in the presence of procurators but also of the local authorities and the organs of internal affairs," and local authorities are to be provided with a list of detainees. However, reports by human rights groups indicate that even these minimal requirements are not being observed on the ground. In a rare admission, the military commander in Chechnya has acknowledged that innocent people have disappeared during the "sweeps."

In October 2000, Human Rights Watch issued "Welcome to Hell," a vivid and horrifying description of arbitrary detention, torture and extortion in Chechnya. As described in the report, groups of Chechen non-combatants, usually men of military age, are detained on suspicion of participation or collaboration with Chechen guerrillas, and subjected to brutal and humiliating interrogations. This is the description of the procedure followed at the infamous Chernokozovo prison:

Detainees at Chernokozovo were beaten both during interrogation and during nighttime sessions when guards utterly ran amok. During interrogation, detainees were forced to crawl on the ground and were beaten so severely that some sustained broken ribs and injuries to their kidneys, liver, testicles, and feet. Some were also tortured with electric shocks.

In many cases, a detainee was released only after relatives or a loved one paid a bribe to his captors. In other cases, the detainee simply disappeared. Chechnya is filled today with desperate souls seeking word of their missing loved ones who are presumed dead.

Even if the Russian Government manages to create a graveyard in Chechnya and call it peace, it will be a Pyrrhic victory, sowing the seeds of social disintegration in Russia. The prominent Russian journalist and military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer has written, "The complete impunity of the military leaders is leading to the moral decay of their subordinates." He concludes that "the war in Chechnya is serving to destroy both the armed forces and the [Russian] state."

Mr. Speaker, these comments should not be seen as an endorsement of Chechen separatism, and we must frankly admit that some Chechen partisans have been linked with international terrorist organizations who see Chechnya as a staging ground for "jihad" against Moscow. I am fully aware of the depredations visited upon the people of the North Caucasus by marauding kidnappers, hijackers and terrorists. According to press reports, some Chechen guerrillas have executed "traitors" who work for the pro-Moscow administration in Chechnya.

But this does not absolve the Government of Russia from having to live up to basic standards of conduct such as the Geneva Conventions and the Code of Conduct of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. "Anti-terrorist operations" and "territorial integrity" are not synonymous with waging total and barbaric war against one's own citizens.

How many more bodies will show up in mass graves? How many young Russian soldiers' bodies will be sent homes to grieving parents in Russia? How many more displaced persons will spend another winter in tents?

The Administration has called upon Chechnya's leadership to "immediately and unconditionally cut all contacts with international terrorist groups, while calling for 'accountability for [human rights] violations on all sides,' and a political solution to the conflict. I urge the Administration to continue to use every appropriate opportunity to condemn human rights violations in Chechnya, and impress upon Moscow the need for a just political solution. I trust that the return of the United States to the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva will afford one more such opportunity.

The last leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, once called Afghanistan a "bleeding wound." Chechnya is now the "bleeding wound" for the Russian Federation. I say this as someone who wishes Russia and the people of Russia to prosper. The time for a cease-fire and serious negotiations is at hand.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FALLEN HEROES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on Dec. 16, 1944, on a snowy battlefield known as "Hill 88" near the Belgian border with Germany, the Battle of the Bulge began. As the German army advanced, heavy casualties were sustained by the U.S. Army's 99th Division, Company C, forcing surviving G.I.'s to leave fallen comrades behind in shallow graves with only dog tags, sticks, and weapons to mark them. These soldiers were lost, but not forgotten, and after 57 years, six of the more than thirty soldiers designated as Missing in Action after the battle will be given the honor they deserve after sacrificing their lives for their country.

I want to recognize the extraordinary effort by veterans from the battle and a group of Belgian nationals, who worked together to find the remains of six MIA's. This search has spanned across several generations. In September of 1988, two young Belgians, Jean-

Louis Seel and Philippe Speder, were digging in the Ardennes Forest when they discovered the remains of Private First Class Alphonse Sito of Baltimore, Maryland. This prompted William Warnock to compile a list of the 33 missing soldiers, which was published in the 99th Division Association news letter by Dick Byers, a seminal member of the 99th Division. Based on mail and data they received, Byers and Warnock prepared a map pinpointing the location where they believed the remains of Second Lieutenant L.O. Holloway could be found. After a two-day search in November 1990, Seel and Speder were successful in recovering Holloway's remains. His remains were returned to Texas at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in September 1991.

The Holloway case convinced Vernon Swanson of Deerfield, Illinois, that the remains of his "foxhole buddy," Jack Beckwith, could be found. Swanson enlisted the cooperation of a wartime cohort, Byron Witmarsh, and set about the task of recovering the remains of their fallen comrades. Hoping to find Beckwith's remains, Swanson and Witmarsh joined forces with Byers, Seel, Speder, and Warnock in 1991. The group pored over records in the National Archives, the National Personnel Records Center, and the U.S. Army History Institute. An old map of the grave sites was found in Beckwith's Army file, however, an aerial photograph discovered in the National Archives proved to be the critical piece of information. It showed "88 Hill" in December 1944, from which Bill Warnock identified a grouping of trees where the grave sites were. Warnock then transferred the locations of the graves to modern topographic maps and the Belgians were on the hunt again for the remains. In April 2001, Seel decided to search an area that, to his amazement, turned up a dog tag which marked the grave site of Private David A. Read. Seel returned with Speder and two other members of the Belgian search team, Marc Marique and Luc Menestrey. On April 17, the remains of Jack Beckwith, Saul Kokotovich, and David Read were found. Over the next two days the Belgian search team labored to exhume the remains. Each of the dead was found with a single dog tag around his neck, rotted clothing, and boots. David Roth of the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs activity was contacted and took possession of the remains to complete the official identification process.

Vernon Swanson vowed to someday return to recover the remains of his friend, Private Jack Beckwith. Over the years he made many inquiries to fellow veterans of the battle, organized an international search team, and succeeded in finding lost soldiers in a forgotten corner of a vast woodland in Belgium. During the months of June and July the remains of all six comrades will find their final resting place in a cemetery of their families' choice. On June 8, 2002, burial ceremonies were held in Ada, Oklahoma for Private First Class Ewing Fidler. On Saturday, June 22, 2002 the remains of Private First Class Jack Beckwith, Private First Class Saul Kokotovich, and Sergeant Frederick Zimmerman will be laid to rest in the American Military Cemetery in Henri Chapelle, Belgium. Private First Class David Read will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on July 18. Private First Class Stanley Larson will be returned to Rochelle, Illinois on July 22. I want to offer my thanks to the Department of Casualty and Mortuary Affairs and

the American Battle Monuments Commission for their efforts, without which none of this would have been possible. I also want to honor the search team of the U.S. Army's 99th Infantry Division and the Belgian "Diggers" for their dedication and hard work in honoring the memory of these brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the freedoms we enjoy. Above all, I want to thank Vernon Swanson for his determination not to leave his brothers-in-arms behind on the battlefield. His service and that of his comrades are the reason why we live in a free society today.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM F. GREEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mr. William F. Green for his commitment to health care.

Mr. William F. Green has spent almost 35 years of creating, implementing and enhancing medical programs and services for the underserved. After a distinguished tour of duty in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Green pursued an undergraduate degree in sociology. Recognizing the need to strengthen and integrate health care and business systems, he later obtained Masters Degrees in both business and social work.

He has also held many Executive Health Care Administrator positions in various hospitals including St. Mary's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, and the Interfaith Medical Center. He was named Vice-President of Ambulatory Services at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and later took the position of Vice-President of External Affairs and Government Relations.

Mr. Green is a member of many professional associations such as the American College of Hospital Administrators, National Association of Black Health Executives, and the Royal College of Health Administrators.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. William F. Green is devoted to improving community health and advancing the health profession. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in honoring this remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MARCH

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a resolution to honor the remarkable life of David March, a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff killed in the line of duty.

On May 1, 2002, during a seemingly routine traffic stop, Deputy March, a 33-year-old husband and stepfather was shot and killed.

Deputy March's life is that of a true American Hero. Even as a high school football and baseball star, his life long dream was to serve his fellow man through a career in law enforcement.

During his seven years of service, Deputy March garnered the admiration and respect of his superiors and subordinates.

A week before he was shot, Deputy March wrote these words to a friend in the Department.

I feel I give a full days work when I'm here. My contacts with the public are positive. Most of all, I have learned to enjoy what I am doing. My goals are simple. I will always be painfully honest, work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can and hopefully make a difference in people's lives.

May the tragedy of David March's death never overshadow the glory of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, because of duties I was required to perform, pursuant to State statute, as Democratic county chairman in my district, I was unable to be present for votes after 1:30 p.m. on June 12, 2002.

On rollcall No. 223, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 224, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 225, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

REFUGEES FIRST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I recently read an op-ed in the Israeli paper, Ha'aretz, entitled Refugees First written by Dr. Avi Becker, the Secretary-General of the World Jewish Congress. In the article, Dr. Becker discusses the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, for Palestinian refugees. The article brings to light how these refugee camps are coming under control of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and being converted to "military bastions", a strict violation of U.N. policy. The Palestinian refugees of the UNRWA refugee camps are suffering and have not been offered a rehabilitation program to rebuild their communities outside these camps. The United Nations and the international community must reform their current policies on these camps and formulate a new humanitarian vision that will benefit the Palestinians within these camps and elsewhere. I strongly recommend that my colleagues read the following article.

REFUGEES FIRST

It is revealing that only after the Arab/UN abortive attempt to send a fact-finding committee to Jenin, questions have been raised in the international media about the role of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). Several articles in the American media have asked bluntly: "What exactly is the UN doing in its refugee camps (with our money)?" The United States today finances more than one-fourth of UNRWA's operations, about \$90 million, annually. Some Arab oil countries give together less than \$5 million annually, while Iraq and Libya pledge nothing.

Since the current mandate of UNRWA runs through June 30, 2002, it is essential to re-

view and reassess the role of this UN agency. UNRWA, according to its self-proclaimed mission described in its Web site, does not aim to solve the problem of the refugees. While all of the world's refugees are dealt with by the UN High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) who is charged with working for their ultimate rehabilitation, UNRWA, which had existed for more than 50 years, was never meant to actually solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees but rather to perpetuate it.

Under the auspices of UNRWA, some major principles of international law are violated. In 1998, the UN Security Council affirmed the "unacceptability of using refugee camps and other persons in refugee camps . . . to achieve military purposes," a commitment which was immediately confirmed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a 1998 report to the Security Council, in which he urged that "[r]efugee camps . . . be kept free of any military presence or equipment, . . . and that the neutrality of the camps . . . [be] scrupulously maintained." It is therefore important to apply the same principles in the case of the UNRWA camps.

In 1976, the Lebanese ambassador to the UN Edward Ghorra warned the international community of the fact that UNRWA camps in Lebanon had been taken over by terrorist organizations. In his letter to the then UN secretary-general, Kurt Waldheim, the ambassador said that "the Palestinians acted as if they were a state within the State of Lebanon They transformed most, if not all, of the refugee camps into military bastions . . . in the heart of our commercial and industrial centers, and in the vicinity of large civilian conglomerations." (The letter was published as an official UN document.)

In reality, UNRWA camps, with 17,000 employees, had come under PLO control, and under the UN flag they were functioning, for all intents and purposes, as military camps. In October of 1982, UNRWA released a most comprehensive report, which related in great detail that its educational institute at Sibleen, near Beirut, was in reality a military training base for PLO fighters, with extensive military installations and arms warehouses.

The forthcoming renewal of UNRWA's mandate must be used to put pressure on the UN agency to begin a reform plan which will prepare the ground for its future integration with the UN High Commission on Refugees. Thus, in preparation for the decision on the mandate renewal, UNRWA must be asked to develop reliable and viable policies on two fronts: to enforce the ban, required under both international law and UN policy, against using their camps for military and terrorist purposes, and to draft a rehabilitation program which will build new neighborhoods for refugees outside the camps, wherever they are located.

The tragedy of the Palestinians cannot be addressed by existing UN policies and practices. Any comprehensive peace plan dealing with Israeli withdrawal and new borders with a Palestinian state must include as a major component a thorough political and humanitarian solution for the Palestinian refugees. While the borders and security arrangements are obviously issues that need to be concluded, the refugees' situation must be addressed first, and a realistic practical solution must be developed which is based on dealing with the real conditions of their daily lives. The issue of the Palestinian "right of return" cannot be left in limbo, looming over every peace initiative, including the most recent Saudi one, which did not address the refugee issue clearly.

Polls taken in Israel in recent days show that a significant majority of the Israeli public is prepared to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state, the dismantling